

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 IO-13 SSM-03 DPW-01 /066 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9474

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 16814

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS EG

SUBJECT: TALK WITH SIILASVUO

REF: CAIRO 16414

1. SIILASVUO WAS PRESENT AT FINNISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION
LAST NIGHT AND I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO HIM. TWO
POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED:

2. ISRAELI BODIES: CONTRARY TO HIS EARLIER HOPE, THE ISRAELI
BODIES ISSUE IS STILL UNRESOLVED. BOTH SIILASVUO AND HIS
POLITICAL ADVISOR, MILES, WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT ICRC HANDLING
OF THE MATTER. CONVERS OF ICRC, ACCORDING TO SIILASVUO,
HAD SOMEHOW GIVEN PERES THE IMPRESSION THAT GAMASY WAS
READY TO EXCHANGE THE ELEVEN BODIES FOR ONLY THE TWENTY
EGYPTIAN DETAINEES WHOM ISRAEL HAS AGREED TO RELEASE.
THIS IS CONTRARY TO THE FACTS. AS GAMASY HAD TOLD HIM, HE IS
PREPARED TO RETURN THE ELEVEN BODIES (NINE PLUS TWO) IN RETURN
FOR A COMMITMENT TO RELEASE ALL OF THE EGYPTIAN DETAINEES
EXCEPT FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF MURDER OR A CRIME OF VIO-
LENCE. (THIS IS ALSO WHAT GAMASY HAD EARLIER TOLD ME--CAIRO
9838.) SIILASVUO IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE
MATTER. HE MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT THERE IS STILL SOME
DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE ICRC AND THE ISRAELI LISTS OF NUMBERS
OF EGYPTIAN DETAINEES BEING HELD, BUT SEEMED TO THINK THIS
NOW A MINOR POINT.

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3. JOINT COMMISSION MEETING: ASKED IF THE DECEMBER 22 JC MEETING IS STILL SCHEDULED, SIILASVUO SAID IT IS. HOWEVER, EGYPTIAN MG MAGDUB HAD ASKED HIM ON A PERSONAL BASIS TO TRY TO ARANGE THAT THE JC MEETING BE POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER 28. MAGDUB'S REASON IS THAT HE WILL NOT RETURN FROM HIS CANADIAN AND US VISITS UNTIL DECEMBER 20, WHICH WOULD NOT ALLOW HIM SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE MEETING. MAGDUB ASKED THAT GAMASY NOT BE MADE AWARE OF HIS REQUEST. SIILASVUO OPINED THERESHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN OBTAINING ISRAELI AGREEMENT TO RE-SCHEDULING THE JC MEETING TO DECEMBER 28.

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